## **CLAIMS**

- 1 1. A call management method implemented using a call routing engine, the method comprising:
- receiving at the engine a first call management message for causing the engine to
- 4 initiate establishment of one of a first connection and a second connection, the first con-
- 5 nection being via a public network and also being between one called device and a call-
- ing device, the second connection being via the network and also being among the calling
- device, the one called device, and another called device, the calling device being previ-
- 8 ously connected to the another called device via the network prior to receipt of the mes-
- 9 sage at the engine; and
- issuing from the engine, in response to the receipt of the first call management
- message at the engine, a second call management message specifying a DTMF sequence
- for provision to the network to cause the network to initiate the establishment of the one
- of the first connection and the second connection.
- 1 2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the first call management message is is-
- sued from the another called device to the engine.
- 1 3. A method according to claim 1, further comprising:
- receiving at the another called device the second call management message; and
- in response receipt of the second call management message at the another called
- device, providing from the another called device to the network the DTMF sequence.

- 4. A method according to claim 3, wherein the DTMF sequence is provided to the
- 2 network from the another called device via a third connection that existed, via the net-
- work, between the another called device and the calling device prior to the receipt of the
- 4 first call management message at the engine.
- 5. A method according to claim 1, wherein the first connection is for facilitating a
- 2 call transfer operation.
- 1 6. A method according to claim 1, wherein the second connection is for facilitating a
- 2 call conferencing operation.
- 1 7. A method according to claim 1, wherein the one called device and the another
- called device each comprise a respective ACD, and the network is a public switched tele-
- 3 phone network.
- 1 8. A method according to claim 4, further comprising:
- in response to the receipt of the second call management message at the another
- 3 called device, terminating the third connection.
- 9. A call management apparatus, comprising:
- a call routing engine that receives a first call management message for causing the
- engine to initiate establishment of one of a first connection and a second connection, the

- first connection being via a public network and also between one called device and a
- s calling device, the second connection being via the network and also being among the
- calling device, the one called device, and another called device, the calling device being
- 7 previously connected to the another called device via the network prior to receipt of the
- 8 message by the engine; and
- the engine issuing, in response to the receipt of the first call management message
- by the engine, a second call management message specifying a DTMF sequence for pro-
- vision to the network to cause the network to initiate the establishment of the one of the
- first connection and the second connection.
- 1 10. An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the another called device issues the
- 2 first call management message to the engine.
- 1 11. An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein:
- the another called device receives the second call management message; and
- in response receipt of the second call management message by the another called
- device, the another called device provides to the network the DTMF sequence.
- 1 12. An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the another called device provides
- 2 DTMF sequence to the network via a third connection that existed, via the network, be-
- tween the another called device and the calling device prior to the receipt of the first call
- 4 management message by the engine.

- 1 13. An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the first connection is for facilitating
- 2 a call transfer operation.
- 1 14. An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the second connection is for facili-
- tating a call conferencing operation.
- 1 15. An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the one called device and the another
- called device each comprise a respective ACD, and the network is a public switched tele-
- 3 phone network.
- 1 16. An apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising:
- in response to the receipt of the second call management message at the another
- 3 called device, the another called device initiates termination of a previously-established
- 4 connection between the calling device and the another called device.
- 1 17. A call management system, comprising:
- means for receiving at the engine a first call management message for causing the
- engine to initiate establishment of one of a first connection and a second connection, the
- 4 first connection being via a public network and also between one called device and a
- 5 calling device, the second connection being via the network and also being among the
- 6 calling device, the one called device, and another called device, the calling device being
- 7 previously connected to the another called device via the network prior to receipt of the
- 8 message at the engine; and

- means for issuing from the engine, in response to the receipt of the first call management message at the engine, a second call management message specifying a DTMF
  sequence for provision to the network to cause the network to initiate the establishment of
  the one of the first connection and the second connection.
- 1 18. A system according to claim 17, wherein the first call management message is
  2 issued from the another called device to the engine.
- 1 19. A system according to claim 17, further comprising:
- means for receiving at the another called device the second call management mes-
- 3 sage; and
- 4 means for, in response receipt of the second call management message at the an-
- other called device, providing from the another called device to the network the DTMF
- 6 sequence.
- 1 20. A system according to claim 19, wherein the DTMF sequence is provided to the
- 2 network from the another called device via a third connection that existed, via the net-
- work, between the another called device and the calling device prior to the receipt of the
- 4 first call management message at the engine.
- 1 21. A system according to claim 17, wherein the first connection is for facilitating a
- 2 call transfer operation.

- 1 22. A system according to claim 17, wherein the second connection is for facilitating
- 2 a call conferencing operation.
- 1 23. A system according to claim 17, wherein the one called device and the another
- called device each comprise a respective ACD, and the network is a public switched tele-
- 3 phone network.
- 1 24. A system according to claim 19, further comprising:
- means for, in response to the receipt of the second call management message at
- the another called device, terminating a previously-established connection between the
- 4 calling device and the another called device.
- 1 25. Computer-readable memory comprising computer-executable program instruc-
- tions for use in call management, the instructions, when executed, causing:
- receiving at the engine of a first call management message for causing the engine
- 4 to initiate establishment of one of a first connection and a second connection, the first
- 5 connection being via a public network and also between one called device and a calling
- device, the second connection being via the network and also being among the calling
- device, the one called device, and another called device, the calling device being previ-
- 8 ously connected to the another called device via the network prior to receipt of the mes-
- 9 sage at the engine; and
- issuing from the engine, in response to the receipt of the first call management
- message at the engine, of a second call management message specifying a DTMF se-

- quence for provision to the network to cause the network to initiate the establishment of
- the one of the first connection and the second connection.
- 1 26. Memory according to claim 25, wherein the first call management message is is-
- sued from the another called device to the engine.
- 1 27. Memory according to claim 25, wherein the instructions, when executed, also
- cause:
- receiving at the another called device of the second call management message;
- 4 and
- in response receipt of the second call management message at the another called
- device, providing from the another called device to the network of the DTMF sequence.
- 1 28. Memory according to claim 27, wherein the DTMF sequence is provided to the
- network from the another called device via a third connection that existed, via the net-
- work, between the another called device and the calling device prior to the receipt of the
- 4 first call management message at the engine.
- 1 29. Memory according to claim 25, wherein the first connection is for facilitating a
- 2 call transfer operation.
- 1 30. Memory according to claim 25, wherein the second connection is for facilitating a
- 2 call conferencing operation.

- 1 31. Memory according to claim 25, wherein the one called device and the another
- 2 called device each comprise a respective ACD, and the network is a public switched tele-
- 3 phone network.
- 1 32. Memory according to claim 27, wherein the instructions, when executed, also
- 2 cause:
- in response to the receipt of the second call management message at the another
- 4 called device, terminating of a previously-established connection between the calling de-
- vice and the another called device.